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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,229	07/15/2003	Arvind Patel	A3-290 US	8525
23683	7590	07/07/2004	EXAMINER	
MOLEX INCORPORATED 2222 WELLINGTON COURT LISLE, IL 60532			HARVEY, JAMES R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 07/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/620,229

Applicant(s)

PATEL ET AL.

Examiner

James R. Harvey

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on original papers filed 7-15-03.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7-15-03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

- The Information Disclosure statement(s) and related documents that were filed on 7-15-03 have been considered.

Drawings

- The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.
 - In reference to Claim(s) 1, line 7, the recitation “inwardly projecting contact ” is not shown. Line 8 correctly recites “inwardly projecting contact area” and area 57 is supported by applicant's drawing (figure 7).). For purposes of examination, it is assumed that the language is intended to mean “inwardly projecting contact area”.
 - The above feature(s) must be shown or the feature canceled from the claim. No new matter should be entered.
- Please note that drawing corrections will no longer be held in abeyance. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application.
- If drawing correction are not submitted with the response to this office action, the response will be consider a Non-Responsive Reply and the following paragraph will apply:

The reply filed on (...) is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because: (...) Since the period for reply set forth in the prior Office action has expired, this application will become abandoned unless applicant corrects the deficiency and obtains an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6) MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS beyond the date for reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be timely filed to avoid abandonment of this application.

Claim Objections

- Claim(s) 1-9 are objected to because of the following informalities:

-- In reference to Claim(s) 1, line 7, the recitation “inwardly projecting contact ” appears to be a typographical error because it is not consistent with the drawings and the recitation of line 8 of Claim 1. Line 8 correctly recites “inwardly projecting contact area” and area 57 is supported by applicant's drawing (figure 7). For purposes of examination, it is assumed that the language is intended to mean “inwardly projecting contact area”. An examination based on the merits, as best understood, is addressed below.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 1, line 9, the recitation “said at least one sidewall” lacks proper antecedent basis. Claim 1, line 6, introduces “two spaced apart sidewalls” which is only seen to support the recitation “at least one of said sidewalls”. For purposes of examination, it is assumed that the language is intended to mean “at least one of said sidewalls”. An examination based on the merits, as best understood, is addressed below.

-- Appropriate response to the above is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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- The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

** Claim(s) 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hotea (5653616).

-- In reference to Claim(s) 1, Hotea shows (cover sheet)

a terminal body 2 with a mating end 26 and a circuit connecting end 10;

a terminal receiving passageway defined in the mating end including two spaced apart

sidewalls 40 extending lengthwise along the passageway (figures 5 and 6); and

at least one inwardly projecting contact 56 disposed along one of the sidewalls, the at least one inwardly projecting contact area having a flat contacting surface 62 (figure 6) disposed at an angle (near the lead line of numeral 72 (figure 6)) to the at least one of the sidewalls 40 for engaging the at least one flat surface of the male terminal when the male terminal is inserted into the terminal receiving passageway;

whereby the flat contacting surface 62 of the at least one inwardly projecting contact area is in generally coplanar contacting relationship with the at least one flat surface of the male terminal.

Further, the functional recitation “the sidewalls resiliently flexing away from each other when the male terminal is inserted into the passageway” is seen to require flexing which is seen to be a function of applicant's upper and lower gaps (47, 48) of applicant's figure 7. Hotea shows

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the same upper and lower gaps 74 in figure 6 and is seen to make unpatentable the functional recitation.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 2, Hotea shows (cover sheet)

an inwardly projecting contact area 62 with a flat contacting surface is disposed on each of the two spaced apart sidewalls 40, each of the inwardly projecting contacts are disposed at an angle (near the lead line of numeral 72 (figure 6)) to their respective sidewall 40 for engaging opposite flat surfaces of the male terminal when the male terminal is inserted into the passageway, and the flat contacting surfaces of the inwardly projecting contacts are in coplanar contacting relationship with the opposing flat surfaces of the male terminal when the male terminal is inserted in the passageway.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 3, Hotea shows (figure 6) each of the sidewalls is of generally U-shaped cross section wherein the legs (near the lead line of numeral 42) of the U-shaped cross sections are spaced apart from each other.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 4, Hotea shows the U-shaped cross sections of the sidewalls are formed by cutting a slit in opposite sidewalls of the female terminal lengthwise along the terminal receiving passageway.

In regards to the method of forming recitation "sidewalls are formed by cutting" the method of forming the device is not germane to the issue of patentability; therefor the recitation has been given little patentable weight.

Further, Hotea shows slit 74 (figure 6) which makes applicant's slit 47 (figure 7, applicant's figure) unpatentable.

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-- In reference to Claim(s) 5, Hotea shows (figure 6) the U-shaped cross sections of the sidewalls of the female terminal flex upon insertion of the male terminal into the passageway and upon engagement between the male terminal and the flat contacting surfaces of the inwardly projecting contacts, the sidewalls providing normal forces at the flat contacting surfaces against the flat surfaces of the male terminal to provide electrical contact between the male and female terminals.

Further, the functional recitation "the sidewalls resiliently flexing away from each other when the male terminal is inserted into the passageway" is seen to require flexing which is seen to be a function of applicant's upper and lower gaps (47, 48) of applicant's figure 7. Hotea shows the same upper and lower gaps 74 in figure 6 and is seen to make unpatentable the functional recitation.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 6, Hotea shows (figure 6) the sidewalls flex about an axis generally parallel to a respective sidewall and in a direction perpendicular to the terminal receiving passageway when the male terminal is inserted into the passageway.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 7, Hotea shows (figure 6) the sidewalls 40 rotate along an axis parallel to the direction of insertion of the male terminal in the passageway.

In particular reference to the recitation "rotate" this is seen to be the same as flexing about an origin and flexing was previously addressed.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 8, Hotea shows (figure 6) the flat contacting surfaces 62 of the inwardly projecting contacts are elongated (figure 7) in the direction of insertion of the male terminal in the passageway.

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-- In reference to Claim(s) 9, Hotea shows (figure 7) a cut 64 is made partially into at least one of the sidewalls 40 of the female terminal.

In reply to: the recitation "to control the flexing of the sidewall when the male terminal is inserted into the passageway" this is seen as for the intended use of the structure and is given little patentable weight.

Further, Hotea shows the structure of the cut 64 and is seen to be for the same intended use and make the recitation of the intended use unpatentable.

Conclusion

Effective May 1, 2003, the United States Patent and Trademark Office has a new Commissioner for Patents address. Correspondence in patent related matters must now be addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P. O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

For additional information regarding the new address, see Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

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- The prior art listed on PTO form 892 that is made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure because it shows the state of the art with respect to applicant's claimed invention. In particular, Ito shows one contact area 20 (cover sheet), Jones et al. shows a contact area 18 (cover sheet), and Awano shows flexing sidewalls 21.

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- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Harvey whose telephone number is 703-305-0958. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 extension 33.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2800.

- Effective **October 1, 2003**, all patent application related correspondence transmitted by facsimile must be directed to the central facsimile number, **(703) 872-9306**, with a few exceptions. *See Fax Automation in Technology Center 1700, 1237 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 140* (August 29, 2000). Replies to Office actions including after-final amendments that are transmitted by facsimile must be directed to the central facsimile number. Unofficial correspondence such as draft proposed amendments for interviews may continue to be transmitted by facsimile to the Technology Centers. *See Fax Automation in Technology Center 1700, 1237 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 140* (August 29, 2000).

James R. Harvey, Examiner

jrh

June 27, 2004


Gary Paumen
Primary Examiner